

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Bill Cosponsored by Rep. Giuliano To Prevent Gift Cards from Expiring Gains Final Legislative Approval**



The state House of Representatives has given final legislative approval to a bill (Senate Bill 123) cosponsored by state Representative Marilyn Giuliano that would prohibit the sale of gift certificates that are subject to expiration dates.

“It’s not unusual for persons who receive gift certificates as Christmas or birthday presents to put them aside for later use when they cannot find items they want to buy at the store that issued them. While most people make use of gift certificates within a few weeks or months of receiving them, some fail to redeem them before the expiration date,” said Representative Giuliano, R-23rd District. “That means the person who bought the gift certificate forfeited the money he or she spent and the individual who received the card was unable to use it to buy something.”

“It offends my sense of fair play when a store puts an expiration date on a gift that was purchased in good faith. Stores that sell gift certificates should be obliged to honor them whenever they are presented for redemption - whether it’s a week after it was bought or several years after the date of purchase. This legislation will enable people who receive gift cards to redeem them for merchandise they really want at a time of their own choosing without having to worry about meeting an arbitrary deadline set by the store that issued the card,” Representative Giuliano said.

The legislation, which was approved by the state House Thursday and by the state Senate May 26th, was sent to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.

Under current law, a gift card is presumed abandoned if it is not used within three years. If the owner fails to redeem it within three years, its value is transferred to the state treasury.